

***The Iliad Book 1 Study Guide***

Holt World Literature pp. 229-244

1. Identify the subject of Book 1, as stated in the **invocation** (lines 1-9).
  
2. *The Iliad* begins “in medias res” (i.e. in the middle of the action). What is currently happening to the Greeks as Book 1 opens?
  
3. In the **extended flashback**, beginning in line 16 and ending at line 65, what does Homer reveal about the causes of the plague from which the Greek army is suffering? Fill in the outline below:
  - a. The priest, \_\_\_\_\_, begs Agamemnon for his daughter, \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_, the leader of the Greek army, turned him away.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ prays to the god \_\_\_\_\_ for help.
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ sends a \_\_\_\_\_ that first affects the \_\_\_\_\_ and then the \_\_\_\_\_, only then to affect the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - e. This went on for \_\_\_\_\_ days before the goddess \_\_\_\_\_ tells the soldier \_\_\_\_\_ to call all the ranks for an \_\_\_\_\_.
  
4. Homer uses **stock epithets**, descriptive adjectives or adjective phrases, in place of actual character names. Next to each character below, list some of the stock epithets used to describe them:
  - a. Agamemnon –
  - b. Apollo –
  - c. Hera –
  - d. Achilles –
  - e. Athena –
  
5. What, as Calchas Thestorides suggests, is the reason behind Apollo’s wrath (and ultimately the punishment of the Greeks with the plague)?
  
6. How does Agamemnon react to Calchas’s words? What does he ask for?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

7. How does Achilles react to Agamemnon's request?
8. What, then, does Agamemnon require as a substitution for losing Chryseis?
9. Who stops Achilles from drawing his sword against Agamemnon? Why?
10. In lines 283-291, Homer uses **foreshadowing** to hint to the audience at what is to come when Achilles withdraws from the battle. What does Achilles say will be the consequences the Greek army will suffer at losing him?
11. What reprimand does Nestor deliver to Achilles and Agamemnon? What is his advice to them?
12. How do Agamemnon and Achilles react to Nestor's advice?
13. What do Achilles' opening lines in his speech to Eurybates and Talthybios suggest about his character? How does Achilles' attitude toward these couriers contrast with Agamemnon's attitude toward Calchas earlier?
14. What does Achilles ask his mother to do?
15. What does Thetis predict about Achilles' life? How might he have avoided this fate?